

A N N U A L



DC
COMICS™

2

SUPERMAN™ ACTION COMICS™

THE NEW 52!

SCOTT
LOBDELL
KENNETH
ROCAFORT
DAN
JURGENS

DEC 2013

RATED T TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM

WRAYTON
RETURNS
PART 1

HE CAME FROM
A WORLD THAT
DIED SHORTLY
AFTER HIS BIRTH.

HE WAS RAISED BY HIS
HUMAN FOSTER PARENTS
TO STAND FOR SOMETHING
GREATER THAN HIMSELF.

HE CAN'T HELP BUT BELIEVE
THAT HIS BIRTH PARENTS
WANTED THE SAME FOR HIM.

WASN'T THAT THE REASON THEY
CHOSE EARTH--SO THAT HE WOULD
STAND TALL AMONG THE PEOPLE WITH
WHOM HE'D SHARE THIS PLANET?

WHEN HE GREW UP,
CLARK KENT MOVED
FROM SMALLVILLE...

...TO METROPOLIS,
WHERE HE IS CALLED
SUPERMAN.

HE EVENTUALLY
HELPED FOUND THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE--

--AND TOGETHER, WITH THE
WORLD'S FINEST HEROES,
HAS SEEN AND DONE MANY
AMAZING THINGS, FROM
ONE END OF THE GALAXY
TO THE OTHER.

WALUP TON RETURNS PART 1

WRITTEN BY SCOTT LOBBELL
PENCILS BY KENNETH ROCAFORT
AND DAN JURGENS
COLOR BY TOMER MOREY AND BLOND
LETTERS BY TAYLOR ESPOSITO
COVER BY KENNETH ROCAFORT
ASSISTANT EDITOR ANTHONY MARQUEZ
EDITOR EDDIE BERGANZA
SUPERMAN CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH
THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY

FOR ALL THE GOOD IT HAS DONE.

FOR IN THE END--WHEN IT MOST CERTAINLY COMES-- THERE IS VERY LITTLE A SUPERMAN CAN DO TO STOP THE DEATH OF A UNIVERSE.

IN THIS CASE IT WAS A TEMPORAL TSUNAMI.

AN EVER-EXPANDING WAVE OF CHRONAL ENERGY TEARING ITS WAY ACROSS TIME AND SPACE...

...AND LEAVING NOTHING BUT DESTRUCTION IN ITS WAKE.

WHEREVER IT TOUCHES, SUNS FLARE AND DIE--

--OCEANS GIVE WAY TO MOUNTAINS OF ICE OR SEAS OF PRIMORDIAL LAVA.

WOULD THAT CIVILIZATIONS EXISTED ON THESE PLANETS--

--THEY MIGHT INSTANTLY DECAY AT THE END OF TIME... OR START ANEW AT THE BEGINNING.

I DON'T SEE ANY SIGNS OF LIFE IN THAT STAR SYSTEM.

BUT IF THIS HAPPENED IN A POPULATED AREA OF SPACE--

--THE RESULTING DEATHS WOULD BE... INCALCULABLE.

BUT WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAVE CAUSED THIS PHENOMENON?

THAT... CIRCLE.

IT IS TOO PERFECT. IT'S NOT NATURAL.

IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE-- FROM HERE--A PORTAL?

BUT TO WHERE?

CLEARLY SOMEONE IS DIRECTING ME--

--HAVING PULLED ME OFF EARTH.*

AS MUCH AS I DON'T APPRECIATE BEING YANKED AROUND BY MY CAPE...

*SUPERMAN #24--EDDIE

...THIS SEEMS LIKE MY BEST CHANCE OF MAKING MY WAY HOME AND TRYING TO DEAL WITH THIS TIME DISTORTION AT ITS SOURCE.

KARA?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

HONESTLY? I HAVE NO IDEA, KAL.

ONE MOMENT I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM BRAINIAC AND CYBORG SUPERMAN*, AND RAN INTO THIS GIANT THING...AND NOW I'M HERE.

BRAINIAC AND CYBORG SUPERMAN...?!

KAL!

YOU GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE IN YOUR SUPER BRAIN TRUST?

"SUPERBOY"?

DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGE TO ALWAYS SAY MY NAME IN AIR QUOTES, BUT-- YEAH, ITS ME.

A MINUTE AGO I WAS SLUGGING IT OUT WITH SOME FUTURE PSYCHO VERSION OF MYSELF*...

...AND NOW I'M PART OF THE MOST AWKWARD FAMILY REUNION EVER.

HIS ONLY REAL NAME IS SUPERBOY.

BUT HE'S SOMETIMES CALLED KON--KRYPTONIAN FOR "ABOMINATION."

HE'S NEITHER TRULY OF EARTH OR KRYPTON-- RATHER HE'S A CLONE CREATED FROM CELLS FROM BOTH WORLDS.

HE'S HAD A HARD TIME FITTING IN.

ANYWHERE.

TEEN TITANS ANNUAL #2, NOW ON SALE!--EDDIE

KARA ZOR-EL, SUPERGIRL.
HIS COUSIN.

SHE CAME TO EARTH LATE IN LIFE--SIXTEEN YEARS OLD AND KRYPTONIAN BORN AND BRED.

TO SAY SHE HAS NOT ADJUSTED WELL WOULD BE AN UNDERSTATEMENT.

I WAS KIND OF HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME WHY WE'RE... WHEREVER IT IS WE ARE.

NO, BUT WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT TOGETHER.

GREAT.

THERE HAD BETTER BE A GOOD REASON WHY YOU'RE HERE, SUPERBOY.

I'M SURE THERE IS, SUPERBRAT.

THOUGH I'LL BE DAMNED IF I KNOW WHY.

I'M CALLING A TRUCE TO YOUR MUTUAL ANIMOSITY.

I JUST SAW A TEMPORAL WAVE OBLITERATE AN ENTIRE STAR SYSTEM, AND WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO STOP IT.

REALLY? YOU HAVE THOSE RESOURCES?

ME? NOT AT ALL.

BUT I'M GUESSING HE DOES...

*IT HAPPENED IN SUPERGIRL #24--EDDIE

THE ORACLE.

A MYSTERIOUS ENTITY THAT CAN SEE EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE--

--THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE--

--ALL AT ONCE.

LIKE THE REST OF HIS RACE HE DOES NOT USUALLY INTERFERE WITH THE MACHINATIONS OF SENTIENT BEINGS THROUGHOUT THE OMNIVERSE...

...UNLESS ALL OF REALITY IS THREATENED.

AS IT IS TODAY.

HE'S THE ONE THAT BROUGHT ME HERE.

I MET HIM NOT LONG AGO.

WHILE WE WERE DEALING WITH H'EL AND HIS ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE EARTH IN ORDER TO SAVE KRYPTON.*

SO...DOES THAT MEAN HE'S ON OUR SIDE?

OR NOT?

I CAN'T TELL YOU. HE DOESN'T SPEAK-- HE USES IMAGES, EMOTIONS RATHER THAN WORDS.

*SUPERMAN #17!-- EDDIE

BUT I HAVE LITTLE PATIENCE FOR THIS COSMIC ENIGMA NONSENSE.

SO IF YOU KNOW HOW TO STOP THAT TIME TSUNAMI, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SPIT IT OUT!

YOUR COUSIN IS CALLING OUT A GUY THE SIZE OF A LARGE MOUNTAIN.

NOT WHEN I KNEW HIM.

OF COURSE HE WAS SIX MONTHS OLD THEN.

WAS HE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?

WAIT, WHAT--YOU'RE OLDER THAN HE IS?

I WAS.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS ANOTHER TIME?

DO SOMETHING.

LOOK, SIGN LANGUAGE.

THAT'S A START.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FILL UP EVERY BIT OF SILENCE WITH WORDS, KON.

DON'T CALL ME THAT, AND YOU TWO HAVE BEEN IN SPACE BEFORE...

DO EITHER OF YOU TWO RECOGNIZE... THAT?

K-KAL? YOU REALLY NEED TO SEE THIS.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING...

KRYPTON.

NEARLY THREE DECADES AGO--

--IT WAS ALTERNATELY THE MOST REVERED AND INTIMIDATING PLANET IN ALL THE OMNIVERSE.

POPULATED AS IT WAS BY BOTH THE BRILLIANT AND THE CRUEL IN EQUAL MEASURE.

UNTIL ENTROPY HAD ITS WAY.

KRYPTON WASN'T MURDERED. IT WAS NOT A VICTIM OF ONE OF ITS SEVERAL CIVIL WARS.

IT DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES.

WOW.

I'VE

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WOW.

I'VE

WOW.
AWESOME PLANET.

B2T0-TTH0.
WHAT?

KRYPTON.
IN THE NAME OF RAO, IT'S KRYPTON.

I'VE SEEN IMAGES BEFORE...
I'VE...
...

GOD.
IT IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED.

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AWESOME PLANET.

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B2T0-T11-0.

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WOW.
AWESOME PLANET.

B2TQ-TTH-Q.

WHAT?

KRYPTON.
IN THE NAME OF RAO, IT'S KRYPTON.

I'VE SEEN IMAGES BEFORE...
I'VE...
...

GOD.
IT IS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I COULD EVER HAVE IMAGINED.





WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

HOME.

MAYBE NOT JUST YET. WE NEED TO KNOW EXACTLY HOW--

WE ALREADY KNOW!

AFTER EVERYTHING WE TRIED TO DO TO STOP HIM...

...H'EL SOMEHOW SAVED KRYPTON!

TAMBUMP

KARA, YOU CAN'T JUST RUSH INTO THIS.

URNN!

NOW WHAT?

SERIOUSLY, KAL--I'M NOT STUPID.

I CAN SEE FROM HERE THAT KRYPTON HAS CHANGED--HOW COULD IT NOT? IT SUDDENLY HAS 25 YEARS OF HISTORY IT NEVER HAD BEFORE.

BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO LEARN ANYTHING FROM UP HERE.

THEN WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE HERE.

WE NEED TO APPROACH THIS CAREFULLY, FIGURE OUT EXACTLY HOW HE DID THIS...AND WHAT IT MEANS.

I CAN BE HAPPY AND CAUTIOUS AT THE SAME TIME.

CAN'T YOU JUST BE HAPPY FOR ME?

FOR US?

FOR, LIKE, A MINUTE?

DESIGNATE: ENEMIES OF THE STATE.

ANNIHILATION BEAM ENGAGED.

THAT...CITY? IT'S A MASSIVE WEAPON.

OKAY.

THAT'S A LITTLE MORE HOSTILE THAN I REMEMBER.

UMMMM... DID THAT CITY JUST FIRE A NUCLEAR BOMB AT US?!

MORE LIKELY IT'S A QUARTRIUM PHOTON BLAST.

WHAT'S THE LIKELIHOOD WE CAN SURVIVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

I'M GOING TO GO WITH "NOT AT ALL."

EITHER WAY...WE NEED TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE BEFORE IT GETS HERE.

KARA?

FINE.

BUT JUST UNTIL WE FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED.

BUT BEFORE THEY
CAN LEAVE OF THEIR
OWN ACCORD...

...THEY APPEAR ON ONE OF
KRYPTON'S TWO MOONS.

SPECIFICALLY
THE HIGH FALLS OF CYROK'OR.

IT IS THE MOST
INHOSPITABLE
ENVIRONMENT
IN ALL THE
STAR SYSTEM.

A PLACE ONLY THE
MOST INSANE OR
MOST DESPERATE
WOULD DARE TO
VENTURE.

TELEPORTED?
TO WHERE...?

AGORON.

KRYPTON'S
MOON.

BUT
HOW...?

YOUR
QUESTIONS.

ANSWERED
ALL.

IN
TIME.

APOLOGIZES
ARE SUDDEN.

NOT
MUCH TIME.
I BROUGHT
YOU HERE,
NOW.

THAT IS...
I APOLOGIZE
FOR MY POOR
USE OF YOUR
LANGUAGE.

I AM
NOT USED
TO SPEAKING
ALoud.

SUPERBOY...?

NO. NOT
"SUPERBOY."
NOT
ENTIRELY.

I AM
CALLED
ORACLE OF
THE
TIMELESS.

I HAVE
TAKEN POS-
SESSION OF THIS
PSIONIC CONSTRUCT
YOU CALL
SUPERBOY...

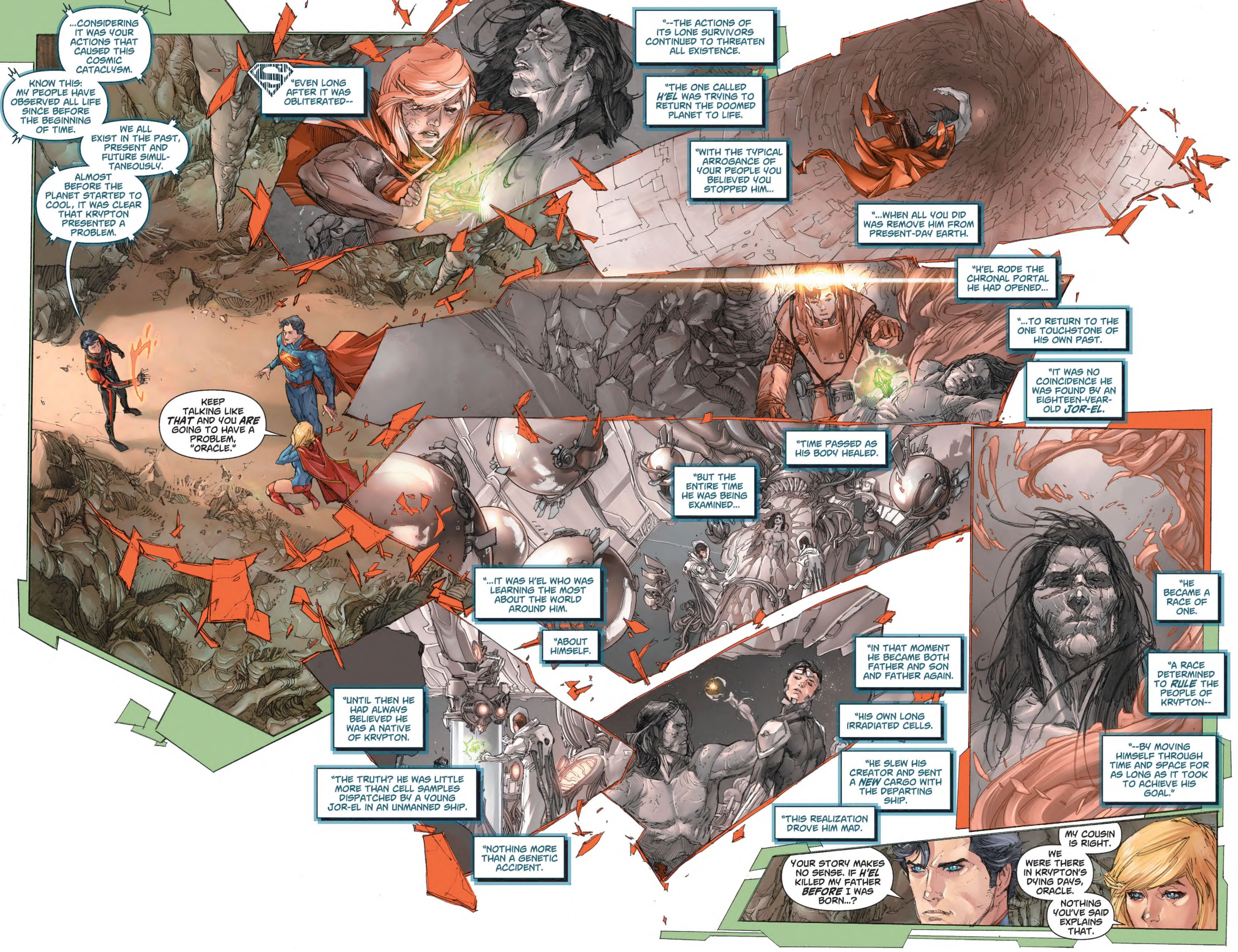
BECAUSE I
MUST SPEAK TO
YOU DIRECTLY ABOUT
AN EXIGENCY THAT
THREATENS EVERY
SENTIENT
BEING IN THE
OMNIVERSE.

RELEASE
OUR FRIEND
FIRST. THEN
WE'LL TALK.

"FRIEND" IS
WAY TOO STRONG
FOR A CLONE, BUT HE'S
MORE THAN A VOICE
BOX FOR YOUR COSMIC
NONSENSE.

ENOUGH.

YOUR
ATTENTION TO
THIS MATTER IS
VITAL, NOT
OPTIONAL...



...CONSIDERING IT WAS YOUR ACTIONS THAT CAUSED THIS COSMIC CATACLYSM.

KNOW THIS: MY PEOPLE HAVE OBSERVED ALL LIFE SINCE BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.

WE ALL EXIST IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE SIMULTANEOUSLY.

ALMOST BEFORE THE PLANET STARTED TO COOL, IT WAS CLEAR THAT KRYPTON PRESENTED A PROBLEM.

EVEN LONG AFTER IT WAS OBLITERATED--

--THE ACTIONS OF ITS LONE SURVIVORS CONTINUED TO THREATEN ALL EXISTENCE.

THE ONE CALLED H'EL WAS TRYING TO RETURN THE DOOMED PLANET TO LIFE.

WITH THE TYPICAL ARROGANCE OF YOUR PEOPLE YOU BELIEVED YOU STOPPED HIM...

...WHEN ALL YOU DID WAS REMOVE HIM FROM PRESENT-DAY EARTH.

H'EL RODE THE CHRONAL PORTAL HE HAD OPENED...

...TO RETURN TO THE ONE TOUCHSTONE OF HIS OWN PAST.

IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE HE WAS FOUND BY AN EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD JOR-EL.

KEEP TALKING LIKE THAT AND YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM, ORACLE.

TIME PASSED AS HIS BODY HEALED.

BUT THE ENTIRE TIME HE WAS BEING EXAMINED...

...IT WAS H'EL WHO WAS LEARNING THE MOST ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND HIM.

ABOUT HIMSELF.

IN THAT MOMENT HE BECAME BOTH FATHER AND SON AND FATHER AGAIN.

HIS OWN LONG IRRADIATED CELLS.

HE SLEW HIS CREATOR AND SENT A NEW CARGO WITH THE DEPARTING SHIP.

THIS REALIZATION DROVE HIM MAD.

YOUR STORY MAKES NO SENSE. IF H'EL KILLED MY FATHER BEFORE I WAS BORN...?

UNTIL THEN HE HAD ALWAYS BELIEVED HE WAS A NATIVE OF KRYPTON.

THE TRUTH? HE WAS LITTLE MORE THAN CELL SAMPLES DISPATCHED BY A YOUNG JOR-EL IN AN UNMANNED SHIP.

NOTHING MORE THAN A GENETIC ACCIDENT.

HE BECAME A RACE OF ONE.

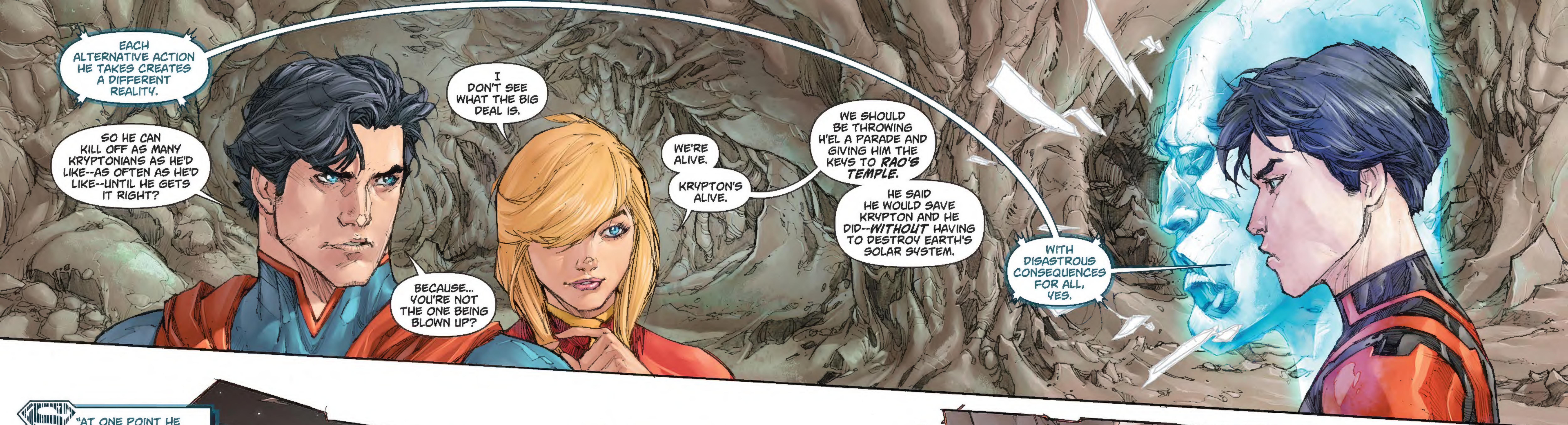
A RACE DETERMINED TO RULE THE PEOPLE OF KRYPTON--

--BY MOVING HIMSELF THROUGH TIME AND SPACE FOR AS LONG AS IT TOOK TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL.

MY COUSIN IS RIGHT.

WE WERE THERE IN KRYPTON'S DYING DAYS, ORACLE.

NOTHING YOU'VE SAID EXPLAINS THAT.



EACH ALTERNATIVE ACTION HE TAKES CREATES A DIFFERENT REALITY.

SO HE CAN KILL OFF AS MANY KRYPTONIANS AS HE'D LIKE--AS OFTEN AS HE'D LIKE--UNTIL HE GETS IT RIGHT?

I DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS.

WE'RE ALIVE.

KRYPTON'S ALIVE.

WE SHOULD BE THROWING HIM A PARADE AND GIVING HIM THE KEYS TO RAO'S TEMPLE.

HE SAID HE WOULD SAVE KRYPTON AND HE DID--WITHOUT HAVING TO DESTROY EARTH'S SOLAR SYSTEM.

WITH DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL, YES.

BECAUSE... YOU'RE NOT THE ONE BEING BLOWN UP?

AT ONE POINT HE RETURNED TO THE SITE OF KRYPTON'S MOST GRIEVOUS INJURY--

--DURING THE LAST STAND OF THE CLONE WAR.

HE BELIEVED THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE ORIGINAL CAUSE OF THE PLANET'S DEATH.

HE WAS WRONG.

HE DECIDED HE WAS TOO IMPULSIVE--THAT HIS MURDER OF JOR-EL ROBBED HIM OF HIS SURROGATE FATHER'S GENIUS.

IT WAS A COMPARATIVELY SIMPLE TASK TO CORRECT THAT MISTAKE.

IN ONE WORLD THE TWO ACTUALLY GREW QUITE CLOSE OVER THE YEARS.

TOGETHER THEY WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE POINT OF THE ULTIMATE CORRUPTION OF THE PLANET'S CORE.

IT WAS CLEAR--EACH TIME HE TRIED TO FIX THINGS, HE'VE ONLY MADE THEM WORSE THROUGH HIS MYRIAD EFFORTS.

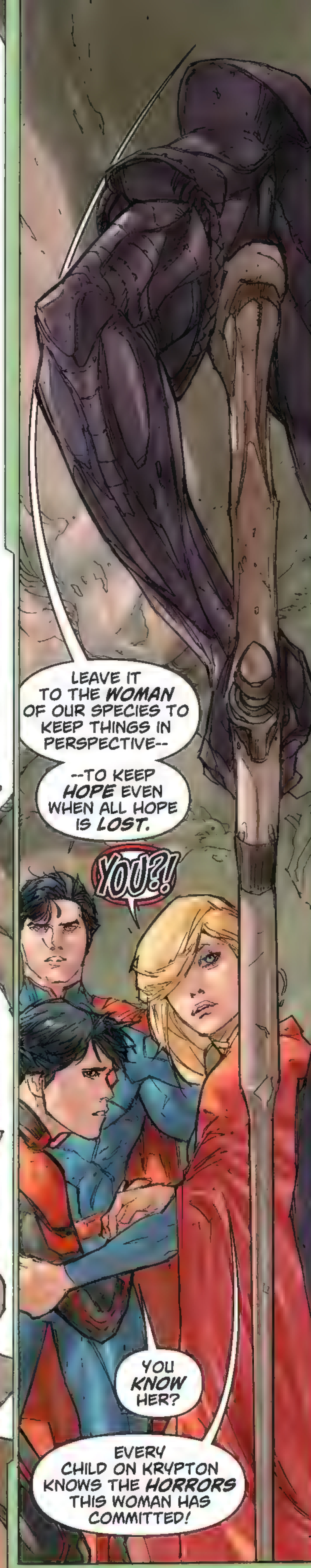
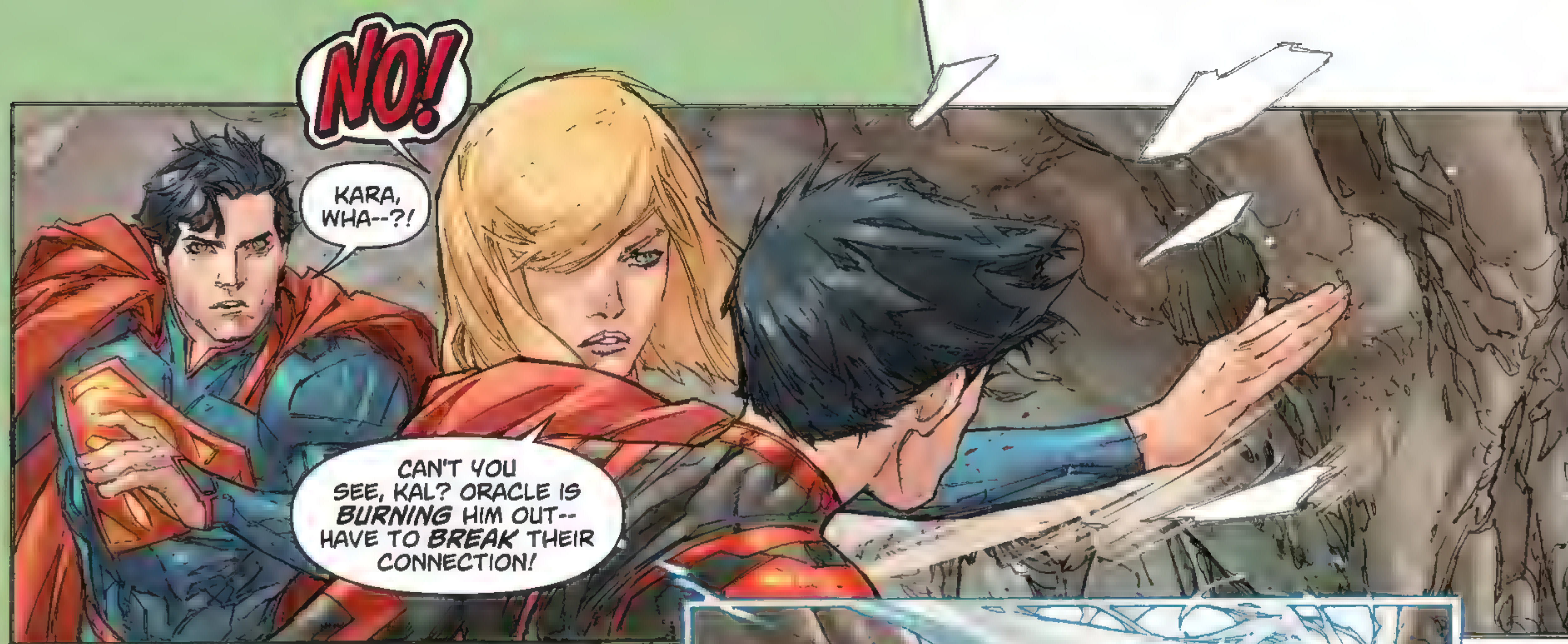
AGAIN AND AGAIN HE WATCHED AS THE PLANET ULTIMATELY SUCCEMBED TO ITS INEVITABLE FATE.

--THERE WAS NOTHING THEY COULD DO TO PREVENT IT.

BUT EVEN WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE--

UNTIL THE DAY ONE OF THE MANY JOR-EL'S SOLVED THE PROBLEM ONCE AND--







I DON'T REQUIRE THAT YOU LOVE ME.

ONLY THAT YOU TRUST ME.

AND I NEED YOU TO TRUST THAT I WILL SEE YOU PUNISHED FOR YOUR EVERY WAR CRIME.

WHAT HAPPENED TO WORKING TOGETHER AT THE END OF THE WORLD?

YOUR FATHER WAS A MAN OF HONOR, KAL-EL.

BOOMMMMBLE

WHAT THE--?!

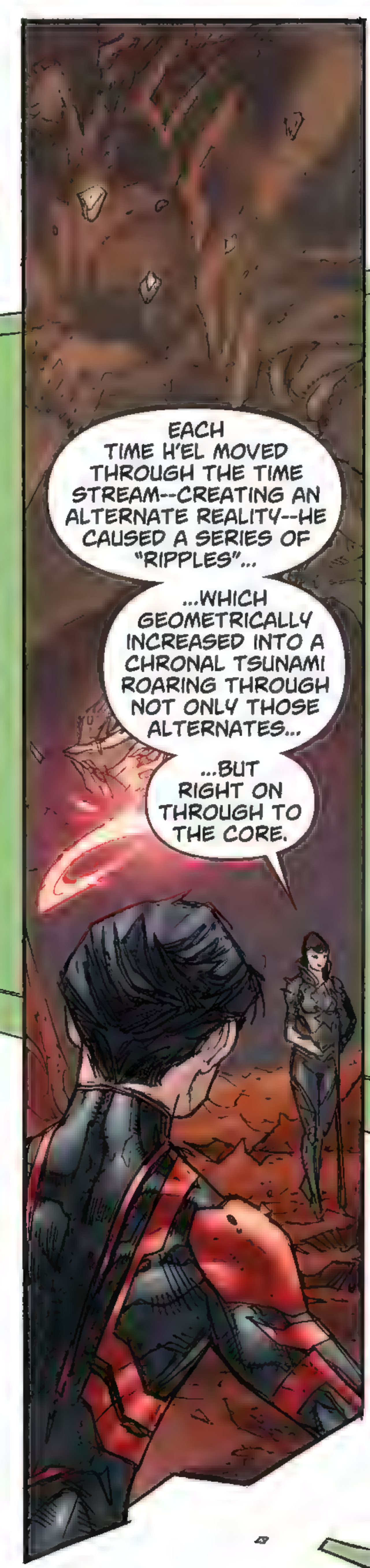
I CAN FEEL THAT IN MY TEETH. IS THIS MOON UNSTABLE?

IT'S MORE THAN JUST THE MOON...I SAW A VISION OF A UNIVERSE BEING TORN APART EARLIER, WHEN ORACLE WAS BRINGING US HERE.

YES, IT IS THE OMNIVERSE ITSELF.

ANOTHER TIME TSUNAMI IS HITTING SOMEWHERE IN TIME AND SPACE.

A WHAT?



EACH TIME H'EL MOVED THROUGH THE TIME STREAM--CREATING AN ALTERNATE REALITY--HE CAUSED A SERIES OF "RIPPLES"...

...WHICH GEOMETRICALLY INCREASED INTO A CHRONAL TSUNAMI ROARING THROUGH NOT ONLY THOSE ALTERNATES...

...BUT RIGHT ON THROUGH TO THE CORE.



I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT--

THEN I'LL BE. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE HISTORY BOOKS OF KRYPTON THAT EVER PORTRAYED YOU AS, WELL, A "BIG THINKER," FAORA.

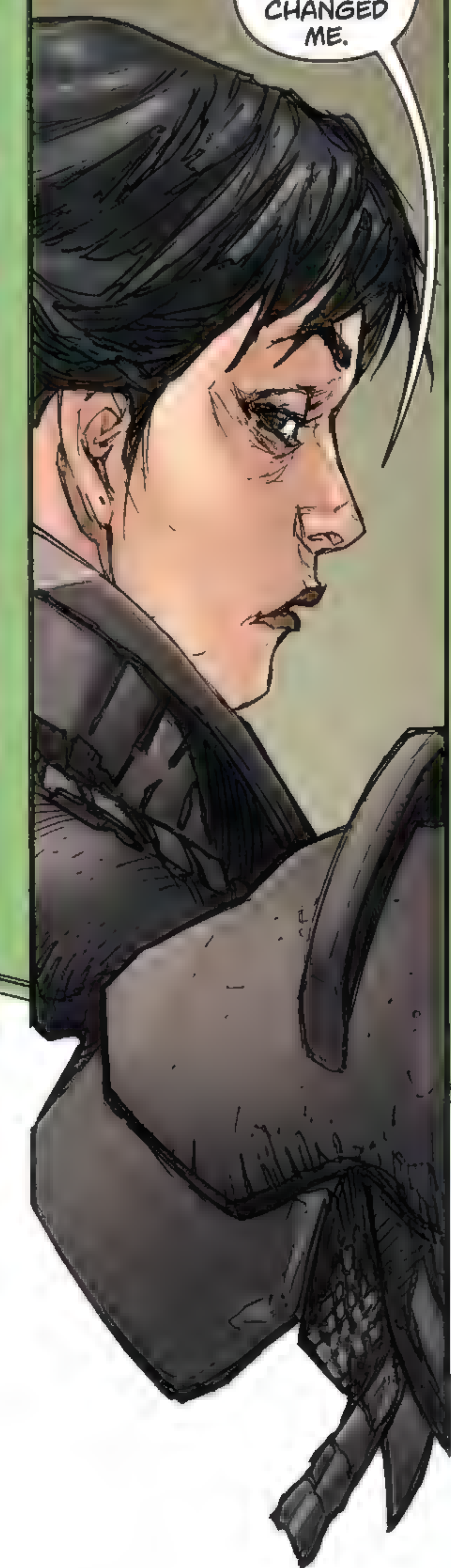
WHY SHOULD WE TAKE YOUR WORD AS AN AUTHORITY ON ANYTHING?

AFTER MY LORD ZOD WAS MURDERED...I ADMIT I WAS WITHOUT PURPOSE.

WHEN H'EL DESTROYED ORACLE'S HERALD DURING ONE OF HIS TREKS THROUGH TIME, ORACLE NEEDED ARMS AND LEGS ON THE GROUND.

HE CHOSE ME. HE EDUCATED ME.

AND YES...HE ULTIMATELY CHANGED ME.



BUT I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE OF KRYPTONIAN BLOOD WHO HAS BEEN CHANGED FOREVER.

H'EL DID MUCH MORE THAN MERELY TURN OUR SACRED WORLD INTO A MASSIVE WEAPON OF DESTRUCTION.

WHAT HE HAS DONE TO ITS PEOPLE--TO ALL WHO DARE OPPOSE HIM...?

COME... LET ME SHOW YOU.





"IT IS A TABLEAU NO ONE PRESENT COULD HAVE IMAGINED."

THE PEOPLE OF KRYPTON ARE WILLFUL--PROUD.

COUNTLESS ARE THOSE WHO ROSE AGAINST H'EL AND HIS EVIL REIGN OVER THE PEOPLE HE HAD ONCE CONSIDERED HIMSELF TO BE HIS KINSMEN.

HIS WRATH--OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERED HIS BETRAYAL--HAS BEEN COMPLETE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING.

H'EL... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

IT LOOKS LIKE--HE ENSLAVED A WHOLE PLANET!

HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?!

--THE GLORY AND MAJESTY THAT WAS KRYPTON IS NO MORE.

"IN ITS PLACE IS A WORLD OF SUFFERING AND DEATH FOR ANY WHO OPPOSE THE WILL OF H'EL."

"EVIL HAS SPREAD EVEN TO ITS MOONS."

"WHILE THE PLANET MAY HAVE RETURNED--

I KNOW HOW HARD THIS IS FOR YOU TO WITNESS.

TRUST ME, I HAVE LIVED WITH THIS FOR YEARS NOW.

BUT ORACLE KNEW YOU NEEDED TO SEE THIS.

YOU SEE, H'EL WAS SUCCESSFUL. BUT WHILE HE MAY HAVE RESURRECTED THE PEOPLE--

--THE VERY SPIRIT OF KRYPTON IS GONE FOREVER.

COFH COFH

KAL?

JUST... ADJUSTING TO THE ATMOSPHERE HERE... I'M FINE.

SO LONG AS MY POWERS KEEP WORKING UNDER THIS RED SUN.

SO THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS...

...IS TO KEEP IT FROM HAPPENING.

THAT MEANS--

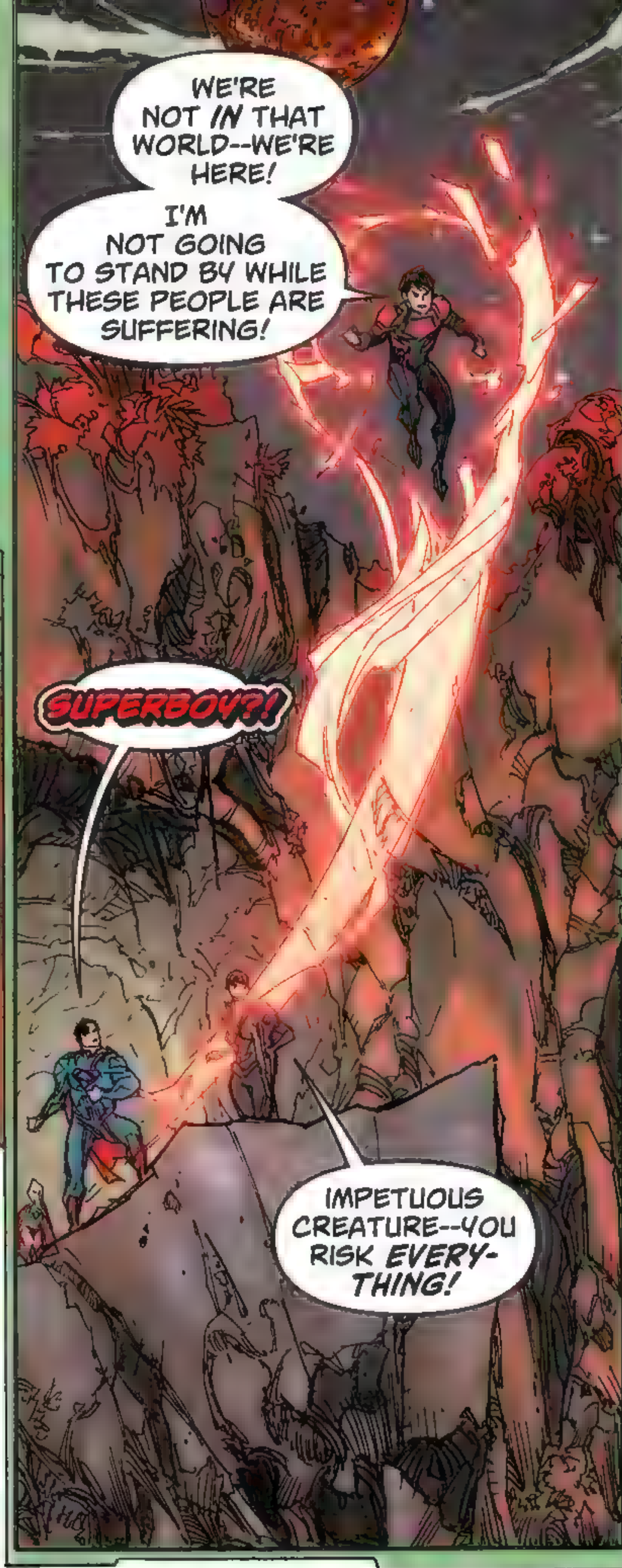
YES.

THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE KRYPTON--TO STOP THE TIME TSUNAMI FROM OBLITERATING ALL LIFE-- IS FOR THE THREE OF YOU TO GO BACK IN TIME...

...IN THE REALITY THAT STARTED IT ALL...

...AND MAKE CERTAIN KRYPTON FOLLOWS HER ORIGINAL DESTINY.

I'M SORRY.



WE'RE NOT IN THAT WORLD--WE'RE HERE!

I'M NOT GOING TO STAND BY WHILE THESE PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING!

SUPERBOY?

IMPETUOUS CREATURE--YOU RISK EVERYTHING!



I WAS CREATED AS A LIVING WEAPON.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS A BAD THING--UNTIL NOW!

SHUNK!

ARGH!



I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO STOP EVERY ONE OF YOU PSYCHOS...

BUT I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M NOT GOING TO TRY!



URNGH!



IDIOT.



PICK UP THAT THING AND FALL BACK!

THESE BLASTS HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME, FAORA. WE CAN--

--DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!

THERE IS TOO MUCH AT RISK HERE... FALL BACK, NOW!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU ARE NO LONGER LIVING UNDER A YELLOW SUN.

WHATEVER POWERS YOU HAVE ON EARTH WILL EVENTUALLY FADE--

KAL-- THAT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT.

CERTAINLY, IN THEORY.

KAL, THIS IS AN AWFUL LOT WE'RE BEING ASKED TO TAKE ON FAITH!

YOU DIDN'T LIVE THROUGH THE DAMAGE ZOD AND FAORA DID TO KRYPTON--THEY WOULD HAVE DONE WORSE THAN THIS IF YOUR FATHER HADN'T STOPPED THEM!

KARA-- LISTEN TO ME.

CRIMES. MURDER. WARS. GENOCIDE.

WE CAN'T STOP ANY OF THAT IF THE OMNIVERSE ENDS.

RIGHT NOW, FAORA IS OUR ONCE CHANCE OF STOPPING THAT.

I'LL HOLD THEM OFF FOR AS LONG AS I CAN-- YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE!

HOW DO YOU SUGGEST WE...NEVER MIND. GOT IT.

--YOU CAN NOT WASTE YOUR STRENGTH ON A FUTILE STAND AGAINST H'EL'S SOLDIERS.



AT A GREAT PERSONAL COST TO ORACLE--

--HIS STANDING WITH THE REST OF HIS ANCIENT RACE--

--HE HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE US WITH THE SUPPORT WE NEED.

THREE SEPARATE PORTALS?

YOU WANT US TO...SPLIT UP?

I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH--

THIS ISN'T A DEBATE!

EACH OF YOU HAS A VERY SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT... AND ALL THREE OF YOU MUST ACCOMPLISH IT OR ALL OF YOU WILL FAIL!

SUPERGIRL, YOU MUST JOURNEY TO THE **GREAT WAR**--THE BATTLE OF THE SKY CORE--AND PREVENT THE CLONES FROM INFLECTING A WOUND THAT WILL EXACERBATE KRYPTON'S ENTROPIC DISSOLUTION.

BUT THAT IS **ESTABLISHED** HISTORY. IF I ALTER IT, HOW AM I ANY BETTER--

DON'T QUESTION THE WISDOM OF THE ORACLE, CHILD! JUST DO IT!

SUPERBOY, THE ONLY WAY SHE CAN SUCCEED IN THE PAST IS IF YOU MAKE CERTAIN SUPERGIRL LEAVES KRYPTON.

MAKES AN ODD SORT OF SENSE.

BUT AM I REALLY THE GUY YOU WANT HELPING THIS COLOSSAL PAIN IN--

SUPERMAN-- YOU ARE TASKED WITH THE MOST DIFFICULT RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL--

--YOU HAVE TO STOP H'EL AT THE EXACT MOMENT OF HIS SUCCESS.

BUT... THERE **MUST** BE ANOTHER WAY.

THERE MUST BE A WAY TO SAVE KRYPTON WITHOUT ITS TURNING INTO THIS NIGHTMARE WORLD HE CREATED.



NO!

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY, SUPERMAN.

ORACLE HAD ME SHOW THE THREE OF YOU WHAT HAPPENED WHEN H'EL TRIED TO RECREATE OUR WORLD IN HIS IMAGE.

IN THE NAME OF RAO--THIS MUST BE DONE.

FOR EVERYTHING KRYPTON EVER WAS.

GO--**NOW!**

COME WITH US!

SHE CAN'T, KARA.

YOU HEARD HER, SHE'S NOT FROM THE ORIGINAL TIMELINE.

BUT IF WE LEAVE HER HERE...?

ORACLE SENT US HERE FOR A REASON. TO SHOW US FIRST-HAND THE DAMAGE H'EL HAS UNLEASHED.

KARA... KON.

IF WE'RE SUCCESSFUL...

...WE MAY NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

AND IF WE'RE NOT, THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE UNTIL THE TIME TSUNAMI DESTROYS EVERYTHING.

IN OTHER WORDS...

SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.



KAL, PLEASE...

...I KNOW I HAVEN'T BEEN THE BIG COUSIN I SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO YOU.

I'M SORRY FOR COMPLICATING YOUR LIFE SO MUCH SINCE I ARRIVED ON EARTH.

YOU WEREN'T THAT--

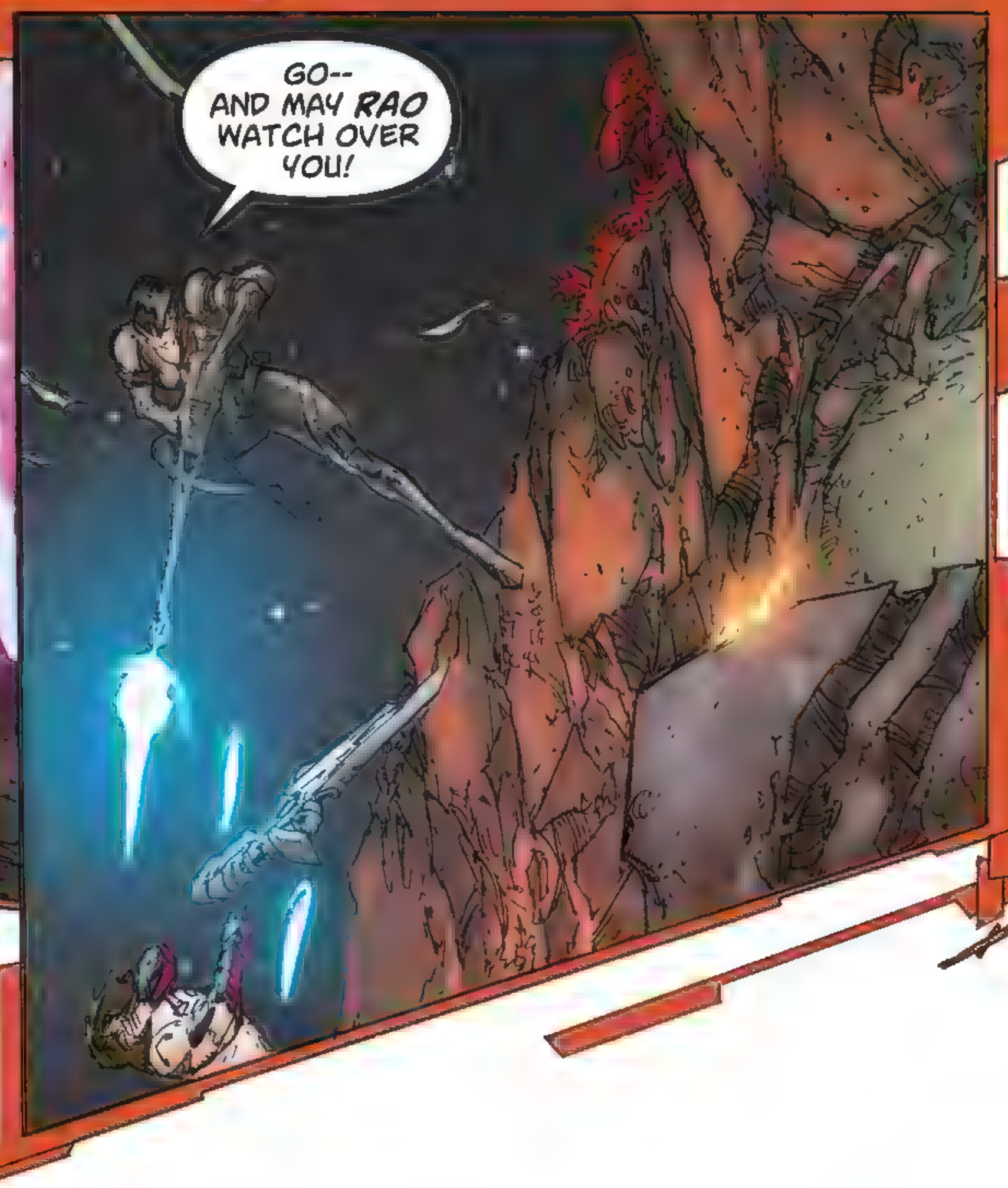
SHHH.

I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID TO TRY TO MAKE ME FEEL AT HOME.



SEE YOU SOON.

SOON.



GO-- AND MAY RAO WATCH OVER YOU!



"GO"?

THE FINAL MOMENT OF YOUR LIFE? YOUR LAST STAND ON BEHALF OF THESE HAPLESS CATTLE-- AND YOU CHOSE "GO"?

NO, FAORA. I WILL STAY AND CRUSH YOUR HEART WITH THE POWER OF MY MIND!

H'EL...? HE'S HERE.

BUT... WHICH ONE OF HIM?

FROM WHERE? WHEN?

FAORA?

GO!

AS YOU DIE--

--HOPE DIES WITH YOU!

THANK YOU, FAORA. FOR YOUR SACRIFICE.

KRYPTONOPOLIS, KRYPTON.
MONTHS BEFORE THE PLANET EXPLODES...



MEN
TO DEATH
ALL.

SOON OF
ALL. SOON
OF ALL.

ALL. AND
MORE.



CLONES.

THEY'RE
EVEN MORE
BARBARIC THAN
THE HISTORY-
PODS PORTRAYED
THEM.

HALF OF ME
WISHES KAL WERE
HERE TO SHOW HIM
WHAT KON IS GOING
TO DEVOLVE
INTO SOME
DAY.

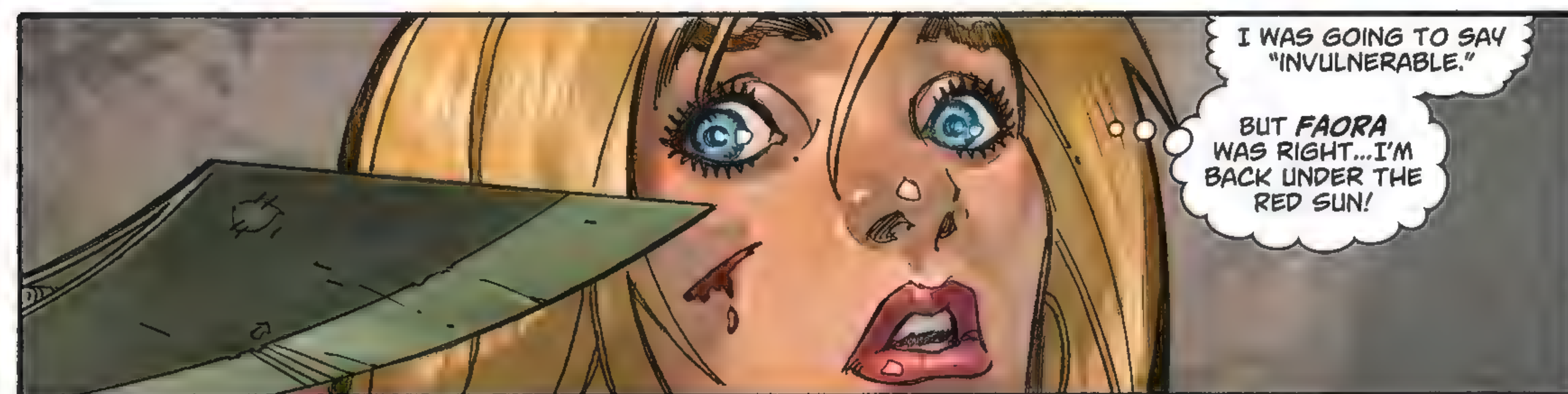
THE
OTHER
HALF...?



WISH
EITHER ONE
WERE HERE
RIGHT...

NOW.

THANK RAO AT
LEAST THAT
I'M--



I WAS GOING TO SAY
"INVULNERABLE."

BUT FAORA
WAS RIGHT...I'M
BACK UNDER THE
RED SUN!



MY POWERS
ARE FADING.
BUT HOW
QUICKLY?

NOT OF
US.

OF
THEM.

KILL
YOU AGAIN
AND AGAIN AND
ONCE MORE.

DANCE
UPON YOUR
CORPSE.

CRAZY.

THERE ARE PLACES ON EARTH I HAVEN'T SEEN IN THE SIX MONTHS I'VE BEEN ALIVE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE THE LAST HORIZON I'M EVER GOING TO SEE.



NOW HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND SUPERGIRL IN ALL OF--

WHEEEEE!!!

HUH?!



SUPER--ER, KARA?!



UH, NO--NOT AT ALL.

I WORK FOR YOUR...UNCLE! TEST-DRIVING THIS, UH, ANTIGRAV SUIT.

COOL, HUH?

SORRY, I'M OKAY NOW. THIS ANTIGRAV HARNESS WAS MY MOTHER'S. IT'S A LITTLE UNSTABLE.

OH, WAIT--YOU'RE WEARING THE FAMILY CREST!

YOU'RE WORKING FOR MY FAMILY? KEEPING TABS?



IT'S A LITTLE GARISH, BUT OKAY. JUST...

DON'T TELL MY PARENTS. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE STUDYING TONIGHT!

YEAH, UM...YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME.

GOD KNOWS I HAVE ENOUGH OF MY OWN!

I'M SNEAKING OFF TO LAVA-GRAZE BENEATH THE HUB. WANT TO JOIN ME?



YEAH, SURE. ALWAYS DOWN FOR A LAVA-GRAZE.

GREAT, THE ONLY THING I HAD TO DO WAS TO GET HER ON THE ONE SHIP OUT OF ARGO CITY WITHOUT HER KNOWING I WAS HERE--

--AND I SCREWED THAT UP IN THE FIRST THIRTY SECONDS I'VE BEEN HERE.

NOW WHAT?!



ODD.

I HAVE NEARLY A LIFETIME OF YELLOW SUN RADIATION IN MY BODY. IT SHOULD BE AT LEAST A WHILE BEFORE IT DISSIPATES.

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER BEEN IN A ROOM SO DARK THAT I COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING.

WHICH MEANS IF I CONCENTRATE I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DISCERN I'M IN...A LAB.

FUNNY, IT ALMOST FEELS AS IF...I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?

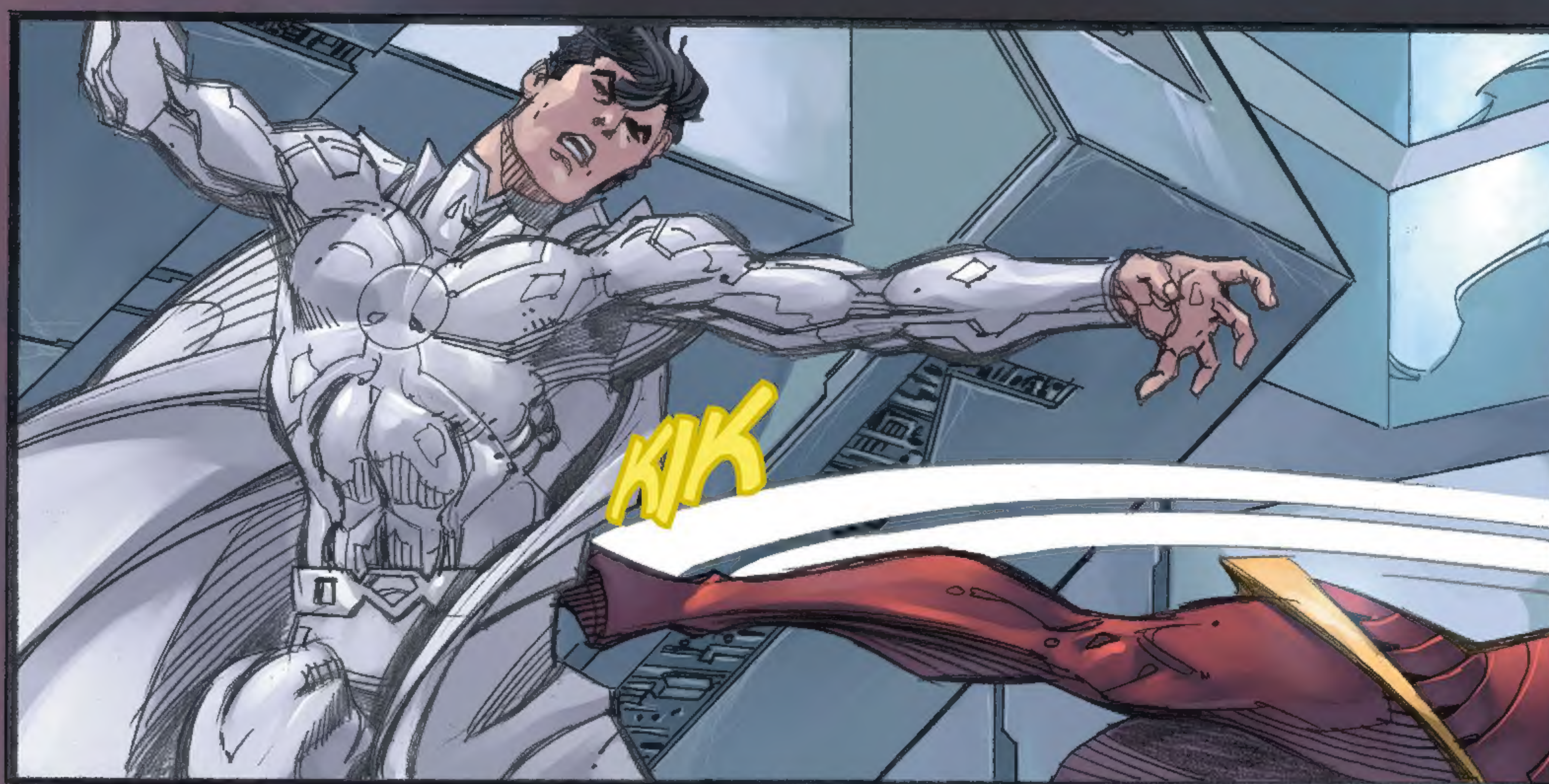
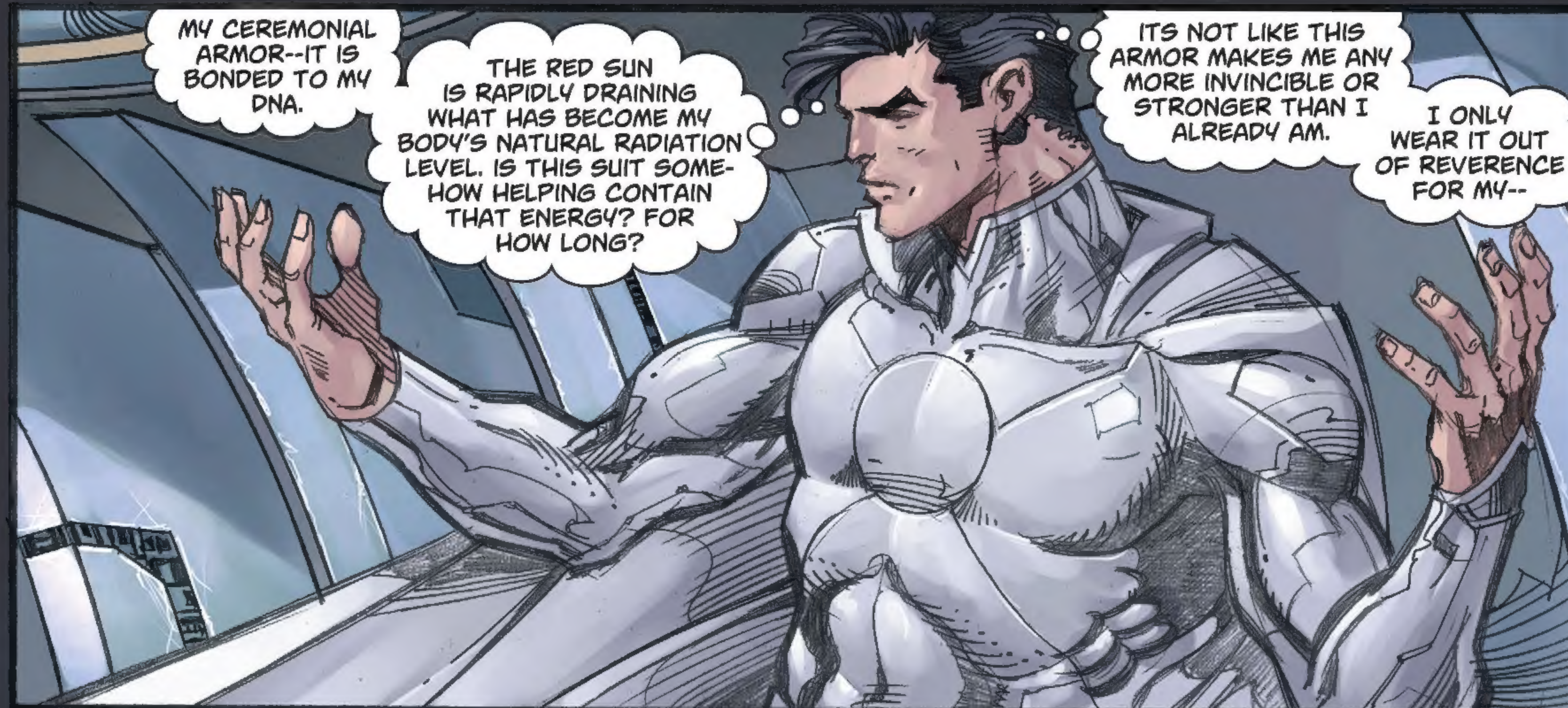


MY CEREMONIAL ARMOR--IT IS BONDED TO MY DNA.

THE RED SUN IS RAPIDLY DRAINING WHAT HAS BECOME MY BODY'S NATURAL RADIATION LEVEL. IS THIS SUIT SOMEHOW HELPING CONTAIN THAT ENERGY? FOR HOW LONG?

IT'S NOT LIKE THIS ARMOR MAKES ME ANY MORE INVINCIBLE OR STRONGER THAN I ALREADY AM.

I ONLY WEAR IT OUT OF REVERENCE FOR MY--



H'EL?!



I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR HOW YOU GOT IN HERE.

BUT I KNOW YOU'RE LEAVING HERE IN PIECES IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ABOUT!

YOU...?

LARA VAN-EL, YES.

YOU DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE BREAKING INTO THE HOUSE OF EL?

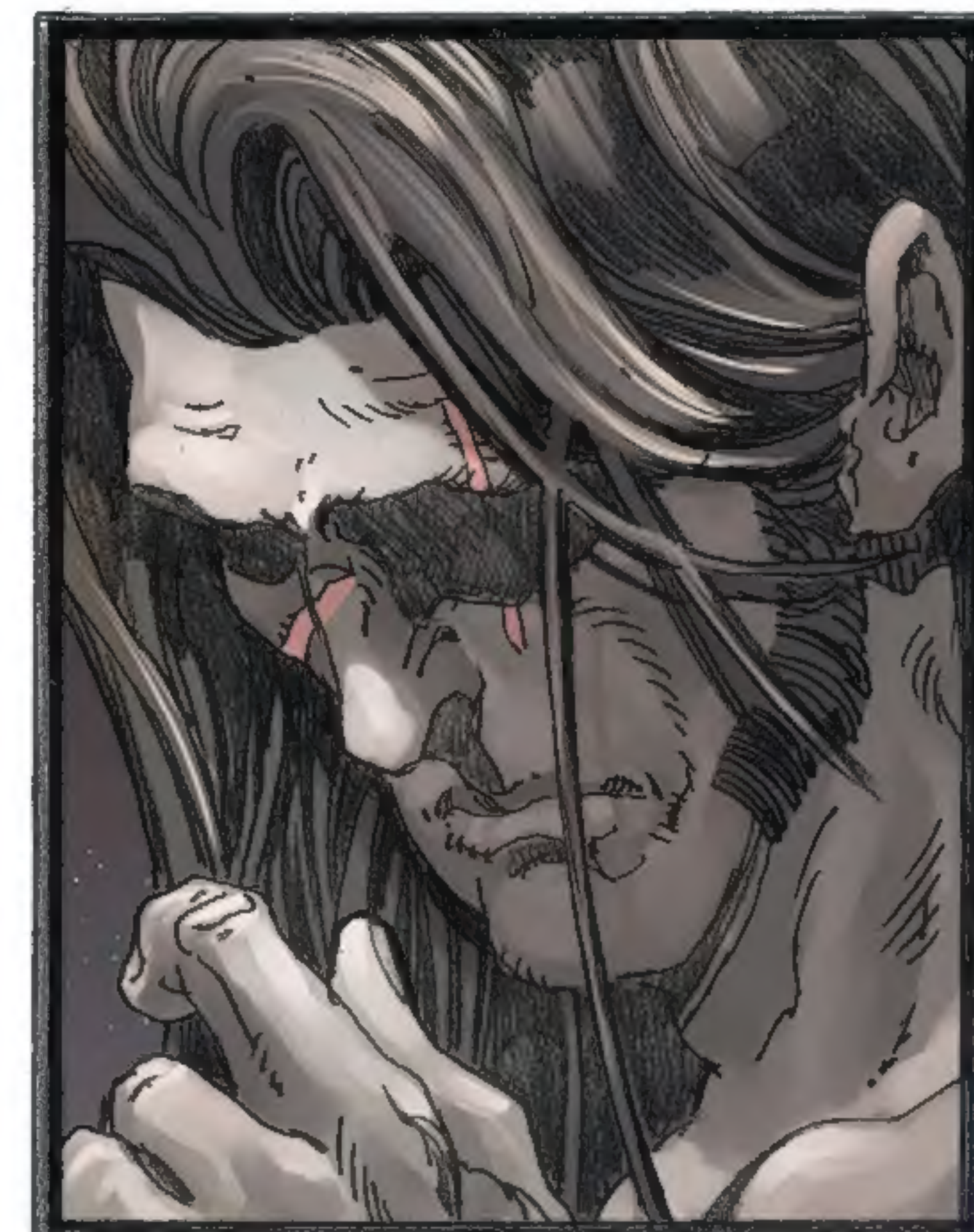
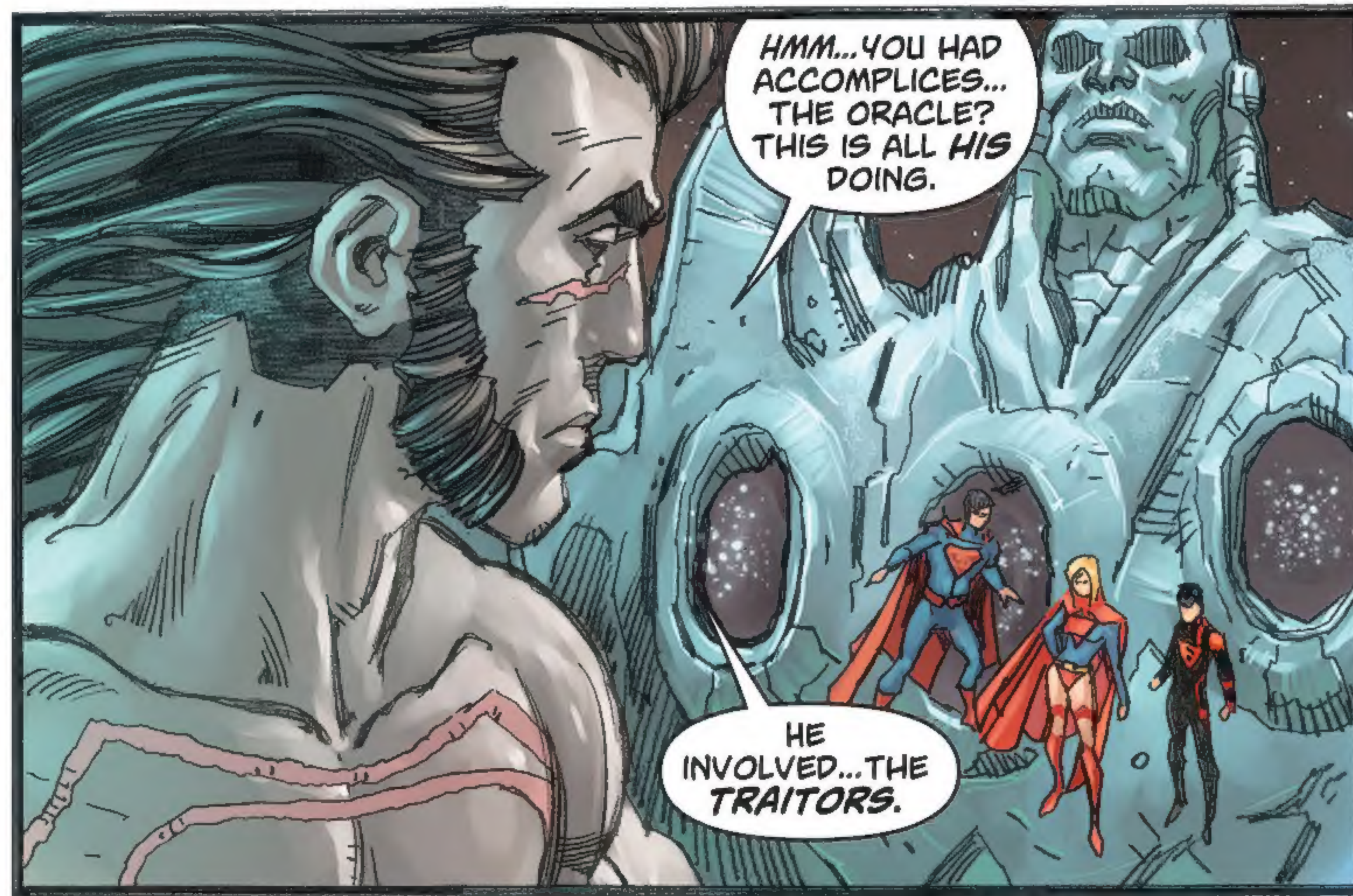
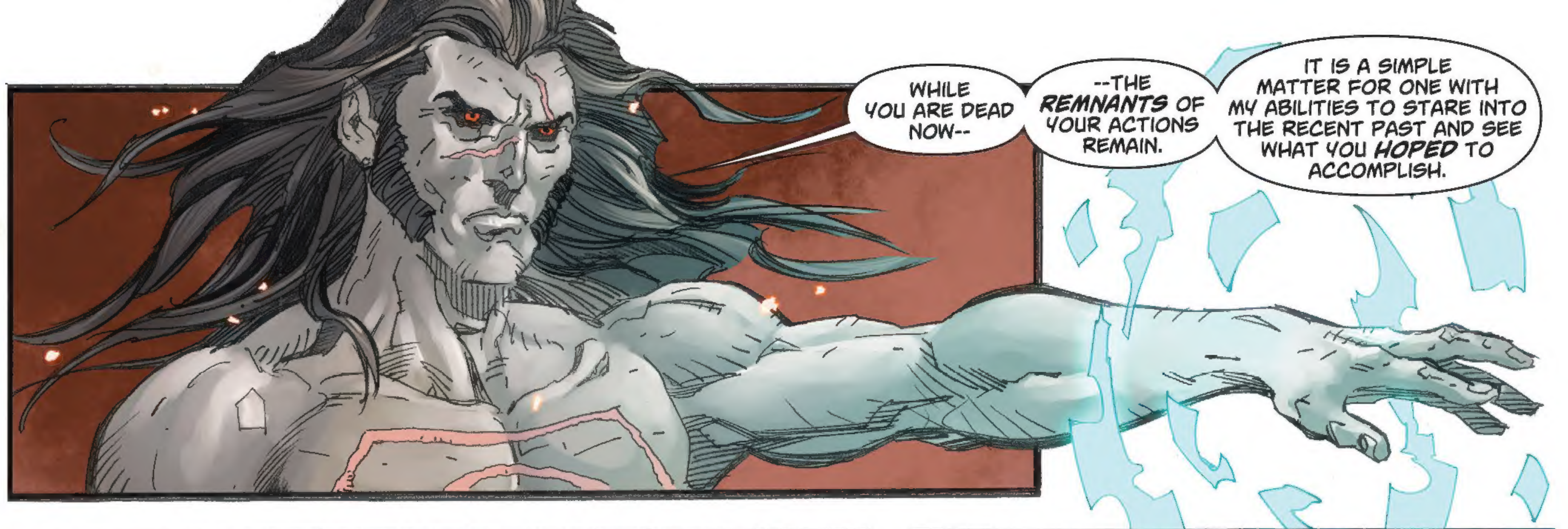
MAYBE YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT BETTER OF IT IF YOU'D KNOWN.

I AM SURE I...

THAT IS, I JUST...

JUST WOW.





As RAGE SWELLS
IN THE HEART
OF ONE BEING...

TIME IS
ON MY SIDE.
THEY ARE ALL
ALREADY
DEAD.

...A UNIVERSE
CONTINUES TO BE
RENT ASUNDER.

DON'T DARE MISS

SUPERBOY
SUPERGIRL
SUPERMAN

#255 FOR

**LEAGUE OF JUSTICE
RETURNS**



NATHAN